

Knoxville Philatelic Society News

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www.stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm
www.virtualstampclub.com/apschapknoxville.html

Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs

Let's Get with the Programs

For me, one of the best things about our hobby is its ability to educate and spark the imagination. When I was young, I would pour over my Scott catalogs and occasionally read up on an exotic country or colony. As a KPS member, I enjoy learning about the collecting interests of fellow members, and one of the best ways to get to know about someone's collecting interests is through program presentations at our KPS monthly meetings. Beyond program presentations, articles in this newsletter are another way of sharing our personal interests with friends in KPS and with the general public who view our newsletter at the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs web site.

Previous programs that have translated into articles include Ken Korp's beer stamps, Russ and Randy Haese's East Germany, Bruce Roberts's revenue date cancels, Ralph Dinwiddie's Christmas seals, and this month's article by Charlie Wade on a family heirloom with a postal connection.

Now its time to plan for future meeting programs and, I hope, articles for the newsletter. At the April meeting, Bruce Roberts asked for volunteers to sign up to give programs, and I asked for volunteers to write articles. Here are a few that we can look forward to in the coming months: Early Texas Postal History (Barry Van Winkle), the Washington 2006 International Stamp Show (Bruce Roberts), Cancels on the US 1851-1857 Issue (Charles Klinstiver), Freshwater Fishing (Hans Ahlstedt), Early German Rocket Mail (Russ Haese), Precancels (Stu Hanlein). Some have also offered to write newsletter articles, and Nick Stone is offering us the challenge of a new crossword puzzle.

Don't wait for the newsletter to learn about these and other exciting topics, come to the KPS meetings to hear our great programs!

Tom Broadhead

E-Bay Treasure? or We'll All Be Rich!

Condition, condition, condition – sometimes we are told that those are the three factors that are most important in determining the value of a collectible item. In philately, many condition factors – mint or used, hinged or unhinged, fresh color or faded, well centered or poorly centered – help us decide what we want to add to our collections and what we wish to avoid. Sometimes we see the term “space filler” used to describe a rare stamp with obvious faults, especially thins, that don't affect the beautiful stamp image, but nonetheless indicate a less than perfect example.

More and more we see articles in the philatelic press that tell us about record auction prices for stamps that may not be that rare, but are of exceptional quality. A recent article in *Linn's* told of the sale of a perfectly centered, mint, unhinged example of the 10c Smoky Mountain stamp of 1934 for an astounding \$1437.50 – 338 times more than the Scott value of \$4.25.

Now, an enterprising E-Bay seller has listed an example of this stamp, shown below. The listing title is “National Parks, 749, Great Smokey [sic] Mts, Superb, MNH.” Take a look at the picture below. What do you think? At a “Buy It Now” price of \$175, it's not what it's cracked up to be. The description mentions the *Linn's* article, but also says that there is a hinge remnant! So much for MNH. As for “superb” centering – we have had great club programs by Richard Ehrlich and Bruce Roberts on this topic – surely no one would consider this to be anything more than “fine.” Well, that's my “treasure” for this month! If people will pay this, we could all become rich!



Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – April 4, 2006

The April 2006, meeting of the Knoxville Philatelic Society was held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee. Twenty (20) members were present. President Bruce Roberts brought the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Bruce welcomed new members Judy Haney and Barry Van Winkle and returning members Hans and Lisa Ahlstedt. Prior to the program, Bruce asked for members to volunteer to give future program presentations on their collecting interests, and Tom Broadhead asked for volunteers to write articles for the newsletter.

The first part of the program involved members talking about the sources of information that they use for research concerning their favorite philatelic topics. Hans Ahlstedt mentioned the Swedish *Facit* catalog, which not only has volumes describing perforation, watermark and paper varieties, but also a volume that features values for different post office cancels and dates. Nick Stone talked about the Stanley Gibbons catalogs of British stamps that exist in both a general form and a highly specialized one with all listed varieties. Stu Hanlein discussed the Precancel Stamp Society, local precancel clubs, bulletins, and a biennial yearbook as important sources. Charlie Klintstiver has found that the US Classics Society is important for his interests, but also that a personal library of auction catalogs helps keep track of rare stamps and varieties. Bruce Roberts told about his extensive library and the Philatelic Exhibitor, a magazine devoted to the topic of exhibiting. Tom Broadhead talked about using original correspondence in the French philatelic museum in addition to microfilms and the American Philatelic Research Library.

The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets the 1st and 5th Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals, \$12.00 for families, and \$2.00 for youth 17 years of age and under. Requests for information and submissions for the newsletter may be directed to Tom Broadhead, KPS, P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422 – or by e-mail to tomwb50@aol.com.

KPS Officers:

President	Bruce Roberts
President-Elect	Ken Korp
Treasurer	Richard Ehrlich
Secretary	Tom Broadhead
Directors	Norm Carlevato, Ralph Dinwiddie, Charles Klintstiver, Jim Pettway

The second part of the program was a show and tell, with Charlie Wade showing an antique can-celing device used by his grandfather (see his article elsewhere in this newsletter). Tom Broadhead showed a 1923 German cover with a whopping 170 million marks in postage.

During the business meeting, Tom Broadhead passed around text and stamp illustrations that will be submitted to the Southeast Federation for our web page. Russ Haese requested that a link to an online map and information about youth and beginning collecting be included in the new web information. Stu Hanlein distributed blank circuit books, which members can fill and circulate to others in the club for our own KPS stamp circuit. Richard Ehrlich gave out copies of the latest version of the Constitution and Bylaws, which had undergone revision earlier this year.

Nominations for officers were requested, and the following have agreed to stand for election at the May meeting:

President – Mike Kauffman
Vice President – Ralph Dinwiddie
Treasurer – Richard Ehrlich
Secretary – Pat Goebel
Directors – Stu Hanlein, Charlie Wade

Bruce Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by
Tom Broadhead, Secretary

5th Tuesday KPS Meeting – May 30

Board Meeting at 6:00 – all KPS members are invited to attend and meet the new officers.

Swap and sell begins at 7:00. Bring your want lists or your circuit books or other stamps that you want to sell or trade!

Stamp of the Month

On April 21, the USPS will issue a new set of four stamps showing romance among Disney cartoon characters, including Mickey & Minnie, Lady & the Tramp, Beauty & the Beast, and Cinderella & Prince Charming. The stamp of the month is Scott 1355, issued in 1968 to commemorate Walt Disney, the creative genius whose works have entertained many generations and have inspired a popular area of topical collecting. Thanks to Ralph Dinwiddie for the stamps!



A Real Piece of Postal History!

By Charlie Wade

One achieves the “hobby trifecta” when they can find something that relates to more than one of their past times. I brought such an item to the April KPS meeting that related to my interests in stamp collecting, American history, and family genealogy – a hand cancel device of late 19th century from the Fiketon, Tennessee post office. The device still contains the date, February 12, 1901 or 1910*, apparently the last date it was ever used. I also have a snuff tin that contains other month’s names and numbers used for cancellation.



The Fiketon hand canceling device is 4.5 inches long and makes a circular date stamp one inch in diameter.

I grew up in East Tennessee between Knoxville and Chattanooga on a farm in the area my ancestors settled in the early 1800’s. Fiketon, which no longer exists as a town, was located at the border of McMinn and Meigs counties. My grandfather, William Daniel Wade, was postmaster for the small community around the turn of the century. Being the oldest son of the oldest son, I carry the middle name William, a tradition that goes back eight generations. With this comes the honor and responsibility of being caretaker of the Family Bible from the 1830’s, the rifle my great-great grandfather carried fighting for the Union Army’s 3rd Tennessee Calvary in the Civil war, and the Fiketon post office relic.

Growing up on the farm, I remember an old brass plaque entitled “United States Post Office” which was used at Fiketon and an early wooden mail rack with slots to hold each neighbor’s mail as it was sorted by my great-grandfather. However, through the years the brass plaque was lost and the mail rack rotted away. I played Post Office (No, not that kind!) with the post office station and dozens of old letters from around the turn of the century I found in a suitcase. Not knowing the value that postal history covers would become someday, I took the stamps, mostly green 1c Franklins and red 2c Washingtons, and sold them to friends who were collectors.



Modern strike of the Fiketon canceller

Postmaster Wade had a younger sister that left Tennessee and moved to Texas in the 1880’s. Turns out that his sister’s great-grandson was Bill Moyer, former press secretary to President Lyndon Johnson and of PBS fame. Bill and many relatives from around the country returned to the family farm in 2001 for a reunion and re-enactment of the Wade brothers returning from the Civil War.

I come by my interest in stamp collecting naturally. Besides my great-grandfather, my uncle, Jim Buttram, was postmaster in Athens, Tennessee from 1954 until his death in 1980. I went to the post office every Wednesday afternoon after choir practice to see what treasures had arrived each week. Many of the grimy stamps bought on those trips are in my Scott National album today.

Editor’s note: A search for Fiketon, TN on the web turned up a comment that it is now called Clearwater Community. On two web sites: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnmcm2/EastTennesseePostOffices.html> and <http://tennessee.gov/tsla/history/places/postoff2.htm> (Tennessee State Library and Archives), the Fiketon post office is listed as being in operation from 1883-1903. On Jim Forte’s postal history web site, I looked for a Fiketon cover, but none was listed. However, at Jim’s site, you can place a request for a cover, if one becomes available - <http://postalhistory.com/postoffices.asp?task=display&state=TN&county=Mcminn>.

This month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, May 2

A Little Knoxville Postal History

by Tom Broadhead

In the few months after June 1, 1861* when United States stamps were no longer valid for postage in the Confederacy, postmasters in many cities issued provisional postage stamps. One of the creations of Knoxville postmaster, C.H. Charlton is shown below, and I will highlight others in months to come.

The handstamped envelope below is addressed to Lyons Store in Hawkins County and carries a handstamp indicating "PAID 5," or prepayment of 5 cents postage. Otherwise, the marking just says "KNOXVILLE Ten." This combination qualifies as a prepaid indicia, and the Scott Catalog lists it as 47XU5. This example, reported to be one of six known sold for \$500 in the Siegel 2002 auction of the Dr. Karl Agre Collection of Confederate States.



* Bruce Roberts wrote about a last day of use – May 31, 1861 U.S. cover from Arkansas – in the November 2005 newsletter.

How I Got Started

by Mike Kauffman

In the early fifties I was in the 5th grade at Arlington Heights grade school - 30 miles northwest of Chicago. Twice a week we had a hobby hour. It was my favorite time of the week. I usually spent time building plastic boats and airplanes, but halfway through the year our teacher introduced us to stamp collecting. He was a collector and shared his knowledge and enthusiasm with us to the point of having our class begin collecting.

That night I asked Dad if I could start collecting stamps. I told him about my teacher being a collector willing to help us get started. I explained to him that it sounded like an interesting hobby, and I could use my allowance to buy stamps and supplies. That night all three of us decided to collect stamps, my brother, Dad, and me.

The next evening Dad came home with three huge Scott's World Wide albums and a mixture of stamps. I still have my album. He showed us how to hinge and mount the stamps and I remember being very impressed with Dad's knowledge. I later found out that Dad had a stamp store when he was 18, but that's a story for another time.

I continued collecting worldwide with periods of favoritism towards Hungary, Israel, United States, United Nations, and Germany. Serious collecting became dormant during my family rearing years, but it was revived just recently having joined the stamp club a year ago. I now have a strong inter-est in Rattle Snake Island, Kennedy topicals, and First Man on the Moon stamps designed by Paul and Chris Calle.

I am now enjoying the process of selling Dad's stamps. He again became a dealer once Larry and I left home. Presently, Pat and I go to three or four shows a year and are investigating Ebay possibilities in order to get his inventory down to a manageable amount.

It has been fun. It still is.

Next KPS monthly meeting – Tuesday, June 6